



Office of  
Deputy Commissioner  
of Maritime Affairs

**THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
**LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY**

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**19 January 2024**

**MARINE SECURITY BULLETIN – 04/2024**

**Dear Shipowners, Operators and Masters of Liberian Flagged Vessels,**

**Subject: Security Incident in the Gulf of Aden**

The UKMTO has reported an attack on a merchant ship at a position about 60 nautical miles southeast of the Yemeni port city of Aden, in the middle of the western Gulf of Aden. The ship's master reported that the vessel was hit on the port side by an aerial drone (UAV). The crew successfully extinguished a fire on board that was caused by the strike. The vessel and the crew are safe and have proceeded to their next port of call.

Liberian flagged vessels transiting the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea are to increase their security level to security level 3 and implement all protective measures in their Ship Security Plan. In addition, due to most recent strikes, US Naval Forces Central Command Bahrain (NAVCENT) has advised shipping that there continues to be a high degree of threat/risk to commercial vessels transiting the Red Sea, specifically in the areas from 12 to 16 degrees North and West of 46 degrees East in the Southern Red Sea and Bab al Mandab Strait. The decision to transit remains at the discretion of the Company, taking into account the number of recent targeted attacks on commercial ships. In addition, it advised that ships that do continue to transit with AIS turned off should provide position reports to NAVCENT every 2-3 hours

The Liberian Registry encourages all vessels transiting the Red Sea to report to the UKMTO and register with the Maritime Security Centre for the Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) in accordance with industry BMP (Best Management Practices) and take advice from the collation forces operating in the area. Best Management Practices 5 (BMP5) will continue to provide the necessary guidance for shipping to ensure threat and risk assessments are developed for every voyage to mitigate the risks presented by remaining security threats in the region. The shipping industry will continue to monitor and advise on maritime security threats to assist the safe transit of vessels and the seafarers.

When operating within territorial seas or calling ports within the previously defined HRA as shown on [UKHO Chart Q6099](#), Masters shall set the vessel security level to the level set by the port State authority but may implement security measures in excess of the security level set by the port authorities based on their assessment of the conditions in the port. When operating outside territorial seas or ports within the previously defined HRA shown on [UKHO chart Q6099](#), all

Liberian flagged vessels shall operate at security level II. All security level changes should be reported directly to the Flag Administration by the Master via email [security@lisscr.com](mailto:security@lisscr.com).

The Liberian Administration strongly recommends that Vessels Owners, Characters, Operators and Ships Masters continue to carry out pre-voyage threat and risk assessments to consider the latest maritime security information from organizations supporting the VRA. In addition, Liberian flagged vessels may consider using a Private Maritime Security Company (PMSC) to provide additional armed or unarmed security personnel while transiting the high-risk area. [Authorized Private Maritime Security Companies](#).

In an emergency, vessels transiting the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea, should contact NAVCENT Battle Watch Phone: +973-1785-3879; Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) Primary Watch Floor Phone: +973-1785-0033, Contingency Mobile Phone: +973-3940-4523, Email: [m-ba-cusnc-ncags@us.navy.mil](mailto:m-ba-cusnc-ncags@us.navy.mil).

Contact MSCHOA prior to transiting the Western Indian Ocean, the Somali Basin, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and the Red Sea.

The contact details of MSCHOA are:

Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)

Email [postmaster@mschoa.org](mailto:postmaster@mschoa.org)

Telephone +44 1923 958545 +44 1923 958700

Fax +44 1923 958520 Website [www.mschoa.org](http://www.mschoa.org)

When transiting the Western Indian Ocean, the Somali Basin, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Red Sea.

Register their vessels with UKMTO

Email: [watchkeepers@ukmto.org](mailto:watchkeepers@ukmto.org) and [ukmto@eim.ae](mailto:ukmto@eim.ae)

Phone: +44 - 2392-222060, +971-50-552-3215

Fax +44 1923 958520

Please keep LISCR's Security Department informed of any security incidents at:

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